

# Tobacco Tid-Bits

Tobacco Free Coalitions of Clark County and Skamania County  
Clark County Health Department • Tobacco Prevention Program

Issue 33

January 2003



## New Year, New Look, New Name

Happy New Year! Tobacco Tid-Bits is proud to start the new year with a new look. Although our goal of providing tobacco related information of local, state and national interest remains the same, our updated look is due in part to changes at the Health Department. The Clark County Board of Commissioners voted in February, 2002 to dissolve the Southwest Washington Health District and transfer public health functions to Clark County. The new Clark County Health Department is the 4th largest county department. For now contact information for Health Department staff remains the same. We will update Tid-Bits readers with new contact information when it changes.



### Report Card

#### State of Tobacco Control 2002 Washington

##### Grades:

<b>Smokefree Air</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Youth Access</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Tobacco Prevention and Control Spending</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Cigarette Taxes</b>	<b>A</b>

*American Lung Association Action Network*

The American Lung Association STATE OF TOBACCO CONTROL 2002 is a report card that evaluates state tobacco control laws against recognized criteria and translates each state's relative progress into letter grade A, B, C, D or F. A grade of A is assigned for excellent state policy while an F indicates inadequate state laws. The American Lung Association has published this report of state tobacco laws since 1988.

## Philip Morris Drops Secondhand Smoke Case

Philip Morris USA is ending its involvement in a decade-old court battle against a government report that said secondhand smoke causes cancer. The nation's largest cigarette company has decided not to appeal a recent ruling by a federal appeals court that let the Environmental Protection Agency report stand, a Philip Morris spokesman said yesterday. A lower court had invalidated it. "While we believe that the issues raised in the case continue to be important, we do not believe that continued litigation is the best approach to pursue at this time," said Tom Ryan, a Philip Morris spokesman. *John Reid Blackwell Richmond Times-Dispatch 01/05/03.*

## Electing Chairs

The Tobacco Free Coalition of Clark County will be electing Chairs at its quarterly meeting February 11, 2:30-4:00 PM at the Health Department. Kristine Perry is the nominee for Chair and Gail Helland is the nominee for chair elect.

## Local Cessation Services

Healthier living is now a click away for those searching for apartments in the Portland and Southwest Washington area. Housing Connections offers a searchable database that includes *nonsmoking* as a criteria for an advanced search. A recent search showed 43 non-smoking units in Clark County ranging from one bedroom apartments to single family homes. Just log onto [www.housingconnections.org/Search.cfm](http://www.housingconnections.org/Search.cfm) enter the area you want to search, then click on *more options*. That will bring up a host of preferences including 'smoking permitted' under *unit features* where you can select "no".



## Local Cessation Services

Kaiser Permanente will continue tobacco cessation classes. Beginning January 1 the "Free and Clear" organization in Seattle is providing phone counseling services through a contract with Kaiser Permanente. In addition Quit Line cards are placed in every patient discharge packet.

## Free Cessation Support Group

A free smoking cessation support group aimed at ex-smokers who are concerned about a relapse will begin meeting February 5. The support groups will meet from 7-8 PM at the Southwest Washington Medical Center Memorial Campus following the cessation class which meets from 6-7 PM. Both are coordinated by *Gail Helland: gail\_lh@yahoo.com*.



Speak Out!  
Youth Initiative

On January 31 and February 1 Speak Out! will bring together youth from southwest Washington for a weekend of workshops, training and fun. The Speak Out! Youth Initiative is the American Cancer Society's program to train youth as advocates for tobacco prevention and school health. The southwest Washington Speak Out! workshop in Vancouver is one of many held around the Northwest Division of the American Cancer Society this year. In addition to the local workshops, every summer the American Cancer Society holds the Speak Out! Summer Summit (formerly known as Camp Speak Out!) for select youth from across the Northwest Division. The American Cancer Society also awards mini-grants to active youth prevention groups, to help them achieve their project goals. This year is the second year of the southwest Washington Speak Out! workshop. Participants are coming from Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties. Youth groups and their adults will leave with team building, goal setting, and collaboration skills necessary for all public health advocates. Speakers include local youth involved in tobacco prevention and Mrs. USA (UN) Kimberly Nelson. For more information on Speak Out! contact *Erin Wilson with ACS: 503.795.3937 or Erin.Wilson@cancer.org*



## Youth Send Powerful Message at National Conference

Ridgefield resident Sarah Yamin, a BREATHE member and Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids' West Coast Youth Advocate of the Year, was a guest speaker at the National Conference on Tobacco or Health in San Francisco, California in November. "Youth-planned-and-run activities drew a great deal of attention and promoted not only tobacco prevention but also the power and creative energy of youth," said Sarah. Among the youth-driven activities: two memorial services illustrating that one American dies due to tobacco-related illness every 72 seconds, handing out to passers-by postcards addressed to the president of Philip Morris so individuals could write the name of a loved one who had died due to tobacco or a message to the company, and then send the postcard, and fliers slipped under the doors of every room in the four major hotels where conference participants were staying. The fliers had a picture of busy youth on the front and the text read: *While you were sleeping...youth were taking on big tobacco. Wake up to the promise of youth empowerment.* "All of these activities were devised, planned, and implemented by youth without the prior knowledge of the adults at the conference," said Sarah. "All the hard work and long nights of planning and preparation paid off. During the closing presentation of the conference, a video was shown highlighting the youth activities of the week. In addition, the youth were able to submit a petition and it was resolved that next year's conference would have a greater youth focus, with increased youth presentations as well as increased youth involvement in the conference planning process."

## Oregon Tobacco Conference

Hear dynamic, nationally recognized speakers who are strong leaders and activists in the field of tobacco prevention and education at Oregon's 7th annual statewide conference, "On Track to a Tobacco Free Oregon." Speakers include William Farone, Ph.D., the former Director of Applied Research of Phillip Morris USA, Inc, Deirdre Imershein, and actress and award-winning film producer, Michael Pertschuk, the co-director of the Advocacy Institute, and Mitch Zeller, a public health policy consultant. The conference will be held in Eugene March 17-19. In February you will find more information about the conference via their Web site: [www.healthoregon.org/tobacco](http://www.healthoregon.org/tobacco).

## Talented Youth Wanted

The Unfiltered Team is searching for writers, painters, cartoonists, photographers, videographers, actors, rappers, dancers, singers, sculptors, interactive artists, and anyone else who wants to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime tobacco challenge, "Unfiltered You." Tell them how tobacco affects you, your community, or your school. Five talented and lucky participants will win in each category, which includes visual art, written, performance, music/audio, and video production. The best submissions also will be reproduced and toured in the "Unfiltered You" traveling gallery exhibit that will tour malls in Washington State throughout Spring 2003. All submissions must be received by April 2, 2003. For details go to the Web site. The Web site (formerly Outrage Avenue) is totally revamped with lots of cool graphics and video. [www.unfilteredtv.com](http://www.unfilteredtv.com)

## World No Tobacco Day

The World No Tobacco Day theme for 2003 is TOBACCO FREE FILMS TOBACCO FREE FASHION ACTION! World No Tobacco Day is celebrated around the world every year on May 31. This year World No Tobacco Day will focus on the role the fashion and film world plays in fostering the worldwide tobacco epidemic and urge them to stop being used as vehicles of death and disease. The world of film and fashion cannot be accused of causing cancer. But they do not have to promote a product that does. For more information go to: <http://tobacco.who.int/page.cfm?sid=86>



**Quit Line**  
**877-270-STOP**  
**877-2 NO FUME**  
**1-877-777-6534 (TTY)**  
**[www.quitline.com](http://www.quitline.com)**

## Calendar of Events

- 1/31-2/1 American Cancer Society Speak Out! Red Lion Inn at Salmon Creek. Contact: Erin Wilson 503.795.3937
- 02/11 Tobacco Free Coalition of Clark County meeting – Clark County Health Dept., 2:30-4 PM. Contact: James Lanz 360.397.8416
- 02/13 Tobacco Free Coalition of Skamania County meeting, 3:30-4:45 PM. – Sheriff's conference room. Contact: James Lanz 360.397.8416
- 02/25 TATU training, 8:00 AM-1:45 PM at Water Resource Education Center, Vancouver. Contact: James Kisse 360.397-8214
- 03/04 TATU training, 8:00 AM-1:45 PM at Water Resource Education Center, Vancouver. Contact: James Kisse 360.397-8214
- 03/12 "Effective School Policy for Tobacco, Alcohol & Other Drugs," Evergreen School District 114, Clark Room. Tan complex, 13501 NE 28th Street, Vancouver. 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. Contact: Pam Johnston 360.750.7500 x133.

Please tell us about your upcoming tobacco related events so we can post them here.